

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3995

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S SECOND MEETING WITH COLORED LEADERS

REF: CAPE TOWN 0458; CAPE TOWN 0492

SUMMARY: IN SECOND MEETING WITH CRC LEADERS (THIS ONE INCLUDING FEDERAL PARTY), PRIME MINISTER REJECTED PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION FOR COLOREDS. HE DID HOLD OUT OFFER OF SEVERAL DEVICES OFFERING LIMITED COLORED PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL AFFAIRS, DEFINING THEM IN TERMS OF CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN WHITE AND COLORED LEADERS. LABOR PARTY CRITICIZED MEETING AS WASTE OF TIME AND SAID IT WOULD ATTEND NO OTHER SUCH GATHERINGS, WHILE FEDERAL PARTY WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY FOR FURTHER TALKS AS ONLY MEANS AVAILABLE FOR ADVANCING INTERESTS OF COLORED COMMUNITY. LEON MAY NOW GO AHEAD WITH HIS INTENTION TO TURN NEXT YEAR'S ELECTIONS INTO REFERENDUM AGAINST CRC. END SUMMARY

2. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER MET WITH REPRESENTATIVE CROSS-SECTION OF LEADERSHIP IN COLOURED PERSONS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL FOR FOUR HOURS ON SEPTEMBER 5. MEETING FOLLOWED IN-

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CONCLUSIVE EARLIER CONSULTATION WITH LEADERS OF CRC OPPOSITION

LABOR PARTY AND INDEPENDENTS ON AUGUST 19 (CAPE TOWN 0458)
AND WAS FIRST TIME PRIME MINISTER HAD HELD TALKS JOINTLY WITH
BOTH MAJOR FACTIONS OF CRC, AS LABOR PARTY HAD HERETOFORE DE-
CLINED ANY SUCH MEETING ATTENDED ALSO BY FEDERAL PARTY.

2. CENTRAL ISSUE BEFORE MEETING WAS DEMAND BY CRC REPRESENTA-
TIVES THAT COLORED SOUTH AFRICANS BE GIVEN FULL RIGHTS OF
CITIZENSHIP, INCLUDING REIRESENTATION IN NATIONAL PARLIAMENT.
ON THIS LABOR AND FEDERAL LEADERS WERE IN FULL AGREEMENT. PRIME
MINISTER RESPONDED THAT HE HAD NO RIGHT TO GRANT SUCH CONCES-
SIONS AS IT RAN CONTRARY TO NATIONAL PARTY POLICY WHICH COULD
ONLY BE ALTERED BY PARTY CONGRESS. HE ADDED THAT "NO PARTY IN
PARLIAMENT IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT SUCH UNQUALIFIED ADMISSION?".
HE RESTATED HIS BELIEF THAT THERE WAS SCOPE FOR IMPROVING CRC
BY GIVING IT GREATER POWER OVER COLORED AFFAIRS BUT THAT THIS
WOULD REQUIRE COOPERATION FROM COLORED LEADERS. HE ALSO SUGGESTED
THAT THROUGH FURTHER GOVERNMENT-CRC CONSULTATIONS THERE MIGHT
EMERGE A "STATUTORY CONSULTATIVE BODY" (AN IDEA FIRST LAUNCHED
BY HIM DURING AUGUST 19 MEETING) OR A "COMBINED CONSULTATIVE
CABINET COUNCIL" COMPOSED OF WHITE AND COLORED REPRESENTATIVE
LEADERS TO DEAL WITH MATTERS OF CONCERN TO BOTH COMMUNITIES.
PRIME MINISTER ALSO HINTED AT POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING
COLOREDS IN VARIOUS GOVERNMENT REGULATORY COUNCILS.

3. AFTER MEETING, LEON STATED THAT TALKS HAD BEEN A WASTE OF
TIME AND "AN EVASIVE, VAGUE AND A CYNICAL EXERCISE". HE DIS-
COUNTED THE VALUE OF PRIME MINISTER'S SUGGESTIONS AS "PETTY
APPEASEMENT". LABOR PARTY ANNOUNCED IT WOULD NOT ATTEND ANY
FUTURE TALKS.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, FEDERAL PARTY LEADER SWARTZ, WHILE
STATING THAL COLOR AS A QUALIFICATION FOR FULL CITIZENSHIP WAS
TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO COLORED COMMUNITY, SAID IT WAS IMPOR-
TANT THAT TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT CONTINUE, AS CONTACT AND DIALOGUE
WAS ALL THAT IS AVAILABLE TO COLORED COMMUNITY. HE SAID
PRIME MINISTERJS SUGGESTED CHANGES REPRESENTED "AN ADVANCE".

5. COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER HAS MADE NO COMMITMENT REGARDING
FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH REMAIN SUGGESTIONS. HE HAS THUS
BOUGHT TIME AT LITTLE IMMEDIATE COST. HE ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE
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SUCCEEDED IN PREVENTING LEON'S AND SWARTZ'S SHARED ATTITUDE ON
COLORED PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION FROM BURGEONING INTO ANY
SORT OF JOINT APPROACH ON OTHER ISSUES. MEANWHILE, COLOREDS'
FRUSTRATIBNS IN POLITICAL MATTERS IS GROWING. IF LEON AND HIS
FOLLOWERS REMAIN DETERMINED IN THEIR OPPOSITION, THEY WILL MAKE
GREAT EFFORT TO GO AHEAD WITH THEIR INTENTION TO TURN NEXT YEAR'S
CRC ELECTIONS INTO REFERENDUM ON COLORED COMMUNITY'S REJECTION
OF CRC. IF SUCCESSFUL, THEY COULD PROVE TO BE CONTINUED EMBAR-

RASSMENT TO GOVERNMENT.

GAMON

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